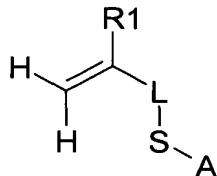


**What is claimed is:**

1. A silver halide photographic processing solution comprising at least one polymeric compound, wherein said polymeric compound comprises at least one monomer unit having a silver complexing moiety selected from the group consisting of a thiol or salt thereof, a group capable of generating a thiol by hydrolysis or a disulfide; and at least one monomer unit having a solubilizing group, and wherein both said silver ion complexing moiety and said solubilizing group are comprised in same or different monomer units.
2. A processing solution according to claim 1, wherein said polymeric compound comprises at least one monomer unit having a solubilizing group selected from the group consisting of a carboxylic acid or salt thereof, a sulfonic acid or salt thereof, a phosphonic acid or salt thereof, a phosphate or a sulfate.
3. A processing solution according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric compound comprises an ethylenically unsaturated monomer according to general formula I



formula I

20    wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heteroaryl group; L is a divalent linking group; A is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a metallic or organic counterion or a group capable of generating a thiol upon hydrolysis.

- 25    4. A processing solution according to claim 2, wherein the polymeric compound comprises an ethylenically unsaturated monomer according to general formula I

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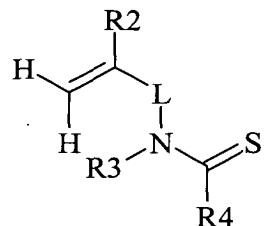


formula I

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heteroaryl group; L is a divalent linking group; A is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a metallic or organic counterion or a group capable of generating a thiol upon hydrolysis.

5. A processing solution according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric compound comprises at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer according to formula II :

10



formula II

wherein :

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R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group, a carboxylic acid or salt thereof, a carboxamide, an ester of a carboxylic acid, a ketone or an aldehyde; L represents a divalent linking group; R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group, CO-R<sup>5</sup>; R<sup>4</sup> is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an alkylene group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group, OR<sup>6</sup>, SR<sup>7</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>; R<sup>5</sup> is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an alkylene group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group, OR<sup>6</sup>, SR<sup>7</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>; R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are each independently selected from the group

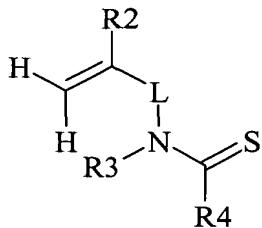
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consisting of an alkyl group, an alkylene group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group;  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an alkylene group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group; and wherein further  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  may be combined to form a ring as well as  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  may be combined to form a ring.

6. A processing solution according to claim 2, wherein the polymeric compound comprises at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer according to formula II :

10



formula II

wherein :

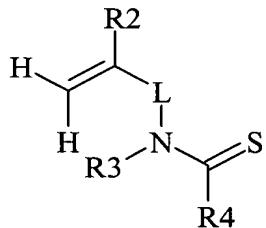
$R^2$  is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group, a carboxylic acid or salt thereof, a carboxamide, an ester of a carboxylic acid, a ketone or an aldehyde; L represents a divalent linking group;  $R^3$  is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,  $CO-R^5$ ;  $R^4$  is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an alkylene group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,  $OR^6$ ,  $SR^7$ ,  $NR^8R^9$ ;  $R^5$  is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an alkylene group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,  $OR^6$ ,  $SR^7$ ,  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an alkylene group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group;  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an alkylene

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group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group; and wherein further R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> may be combined to form a ring as well as R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> may be combined to form a ring.

7. A processing solution according to claim 3, wherein the polymeric compound comprises at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer according to formula II :



formula II

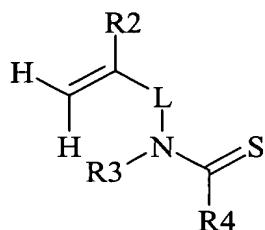
10 wherein :

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group, a carboxylic acid or salt thereof, a carboxamide, an ester of a carboxylic acid, a ketone or an aldehyde; L represents a divalent linking group; R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group, CO-R<sup>5</sup>; R<sup>4</sup> is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an alkylene group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group, OR<sup>6</sup>, SR<sup>7</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>; R<sup>5</sup> is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an alkylene group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group, OR<sup>6</sup>, SR<sup>7</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are each independently selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an alkylene group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group; R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are each independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an alkylene group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group; and wherein further R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> may be combined to form a ring as well as R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> may be combined to form a ring.

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8. A processing solution according to claim 4, wherein the polymeric compound comprises at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer according to formula II :

5



wherein :

10  $R^2$  is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group, a carboxylic acid or salt thereof, a carboxamide, an ester of a carboxylic acid, a ketone or an aldehyde; L represents a divalent linking group;  $R^3$  is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,  $CO-R^5$ ;  $R^4$  is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an alkylene group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,  $OR^6$ ,  $SR^7$ ,  $NR^8R^9$ ;  $R^5$  is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an alkylene group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group,  $OR^6$ ,  $SR^7$ ,  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an alkylene group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group;  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an alkylene group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group; and wherein further  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  may be combined to form a ring as well as  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  may be combined to form a ring.

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25 9. A processing solution according to claim 1, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 100 to 1.

10. A processing solution according to claim 2, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 100 to 1.

5 11. A processing solution according to claim 3, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 100 to 1.

10 12. A processing solution according to claim 4, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 100 to 1.

15 13. A processing solution according to claim 5, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 100 to 1.

20 14. A processing solution according to claim 6, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 100 to 1.

15. A processing solution according to claim 7, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 100 to 8.

25 16. A processing solution according to claim 8, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 100 to 1.

30 17. A processing solution according to claim 1, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to

said monomer unit comprising a solubilising group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 1 to 1.

18. A processing solution according to claim 2, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilising group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 1 to 1.

5 19. A processing solution according to claim 3, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilising group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 1 to 1.

10 20. A processing solution according to claim 4, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilising group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 1 to 1.

15 21. A processing solution according to claim 5, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilising group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 1 to 1.

20 22. A processing solution according to claim 6, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilising group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 1 to 1.

25 23. A processing solution according to claim 7, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilising group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 1 to 1.

30 24. A processing solution according to claim 8, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilising group is in the range between 1 to 100 and 1 to 1.

25. A processing solution according to claim 1, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 25 and 5 to 1.

5 26. A processing solution according to claim 2, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 25 and 5 to 1.

10 27. A processing solution according to claim 3, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 25 and 5 to 1.

15 28. A processing solution according to claim 4, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 25 and 5 to 1.

20 29. A processing solution according to claim 5, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 25 and 5 to 1.

30. A processing solution according to claim 6, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 25 and 5 to 1.

25 31. A processing solution according to claim 7, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 25 and 5 to 1.

30 32. A processing solution according to claim 8, wherein a molar ratio of said monomer unit comprising a silver ion complexing moiety to

said monomer unit comprising a solubilizing group is in the range between 1 to 25 and 5 to 1.

33. A processing solution according to claim 1, wherein said processing solution is a photographic developing solution.

5 34. A processing solution according to claim 2, wherein said processing solution is a photographic developing solution.

35. A processing solution according to claim 3, wherein said processing solution is a photographic developing solution.

10 36. A processing solution according to claim 4, wherein said processing solution is a photographic developing solution.

37. A processing solution according to claim 5, wherein said processing solution is a photographic developing solution.

38. A processing solution according to claim 6, wherein said processing solution is a photographic developing solution.

15 39. A processing solution according to claim 7, wherein said processing solution is a photographic developing solution.

40. A processing solution according to claim 8, wherein said processing solution is a photographic developing solution.